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in our State, able to collect some blankets, warm-clothing and other material to the tune of about three lakhs of Rupees and we have been able to despatch these goods for the relief of those who have suffered this deprivation. I hope the Hon'ble Members will share my gratification that we have been able to do so through the voluntary services of our Police Force; and I hope you will be kind to them. I commend my Demands for the acceptance of the House.

MR. SPEAKER.—Now, I will put the Demands to the vote of the House. The question is:

> "That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 57,73,500 under Demand No. 12-Jail, a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,10,000 under Demand No. 13-Police and a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,77,000 under Denand No. 41-Expenditure connected with the "National Emergency" to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the financial year ending with 31st day of March 1967."

The motion was adopted.

Half-an-Hour Discussion arising out of replies to Starred Question No. 242. *re:* Registration of Public Documents.

MR. SPEAKER.—There is Half-an-Hour Discussion. After that, we have to remember that tomorrow is Saturday and the Demand for tomorrow is a bit heavy. Therefore, the Members, the Whips and everybody will co-operate and see that we are able to go through it in time.

Now, Half-an-Hour Discussion raised by Sri V. S. Patil on the points arising out of the answers to Starred Question No. 242 for the 10th List *re:* Registration of Public Documents.

SRI V. S. PATIL (Belgaum-I).—Sir, the question that was asked by me was published in the Tenth List as Question No. 242. The main substance of the question was that in our Taluk, that is Belgaum Taluk, when we were in the Bombay State, the registration was effected by photo system; and by that system, whatever is written in the document, a photo gives the correct picture including the thumb impressions of the executants or that the witnesses. If there are any scratches by interpolations all these things are correctly represented by the photostat system that was followed for the last so many years in Belgaum; and the requirement of photo was done by the Bombay Government before that area was merged in this State. The question of this system was raked up in the first session of the Assembly here after the Reorganisation of the States. At that time, somewhere in 1958 or so, the

Hon'ble Minister in charge of Registration had assured us that this Government also is thinking of introducing such a system at Bangalore and extending it to some of the Districts in the State. The agreement, according to the Reorganisation Act, came to an end after five years, and since then this photostat system is not in vogue.

I shall tell the difficulty that is being felt in this State. In this State, it is the policy of the Government to appoint persons who must know Kannada as the principal language, so far as clerical staff is concerned. But in the Sub-Registrar's Office at Belgaum, if we take the old documents registered before 1930 or 1935, all the documents in that Taluka, namely Old Belgaum, were in Marathi and *modi* script. Similarly in the adjoining talukas of Ankola, Belgaum and Shahapur of the Ex-States the language of all documents is Marathi and *modi* and in those talukas documents have been registered in *modi* script in the registers kept in those areas. The difficulty is that there are no persons in the Sub-Registar's Office who can copy from the old Marathi Script. I have got my own experience. There are so many applications of my clients pending in the Sub-Registrar's Office for certified copies of old documents. It has become impossible even when we offered voluntary work from the persons who know this particular script of *modi* to copy out the documents. As they are not Government servants, it is not possible to get certification of these documents. Similarly, we are forced to call this Sub-Registrar as a witness in many cases to produce and prove those original records in the Civil courts within those areas. Who is to copy them ? They are all written in *modi*. Even in the Civil Courts, persons who know *modi* script are very scarce. This difficulty is being felt for a long time ; and for the last five to six years we are requesting the District Registrar to find out some person who can copy those documents and help the litigants as well as the property owners and the persons whose documents have been registered. We have been requesting repeatedly to get some person who can decipher and give certified copies. But nothing has been done.

This is a very grave question that has arisen so far as the inhabitants of that Taluka are concerned. And that is why, I had to move this particular question. The answer is that there are about 1,269 documents pending registration. On page 6 of the List, it is answered that 1,269 documents are pending to be copied. This shows the enormous work that is pending. Government have not, in the printed answer, given the time from which these documents are pending. Similarly to sub-clause (g) whether there are any Marathi hands in that office knowing modi script, the answer is 'yes . This is not correct This is the actual experience with which we are meeting everyday and I do not know how the Government can daresay that there are persons who know Marathi and modi script in this office. So, I submit Sir, that in order to help the property owners and persons whose documents have been registered to get certified copies and to help the Marathi documents to be registered, the Governmene may appoint sufficient number of clerks in that office to

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do this job. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to get any copies, etc. Then, Sir, another thing which I could not make out from the answer is this: they have not given information as to how many applications for certified copies are pending and since when. If the Hon'ble Minister has enquired into this matter, he would certainly have come to my reasoning and would do justice.

Another thing to which I should like to refer is that the present officer of that office is complained of by every person who visits that particular office. One of my colleagues, an Advocate had gone there to register a particular document in that office and after paying all the fees, etc., the Sub-Registrar had the courage to say that his own fees has not been paid. It is horrible that from a practising Advocate of that place, the Sub-Registrar had the courage to demand corruption for registering the document. What about others ? Then we enquired and found out that this man was getting not less than Rs. 50 per day. What is this ? I submit that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this portfolio may institute an enquiry against that man about this rempant corruption that is going on there. There was corruption in previous days. But they had no courage to ask even enlightened persons.

There is another thing which I should like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister that is some time back Sir, we had put in an application for getting such *Modi* knowing hands. But the difficulty which the Government feels or the officer feels is that unless the man knows Kannada, nobody could be appointed. This is coming in the way. I should like to suggest that if there are 5 or 6 clerks in that office, appoint at least half of them who know Marathi. Then alone this question can be solved. Otherwise it is not possible to get justice by the people. Even supposing tomorrow this Government may pass an order that all documents to be registered must be in Kannada. They may pass tomorrow that order, but what about old documents, 100 year or 80 years old ? All these records are in Marathi and *Modi* script. What should be done with them ? So, in order to maintain the confidence of the people, they must get the certified copies in the language in which they have been registered. Therefore, I submit that the Government may be pleased to take proper and immediate steps in these respects and that is why I have brought this motion before this House.

SRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA (Minister for Revenue).—Sir, I am sorry the other day when Sri V. S. Patil put that question, he was not here. Otherwise, I would have cleared him then alone.

MR. SPEAKER.—You would have cleared him or the doubts ?

SRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA.—I would have cleared all his doubts. Sir, it is true that after the reorganisation of States, about 17 Sub-Registrars Offices in that area were getting facility of photo copying under the old Bombay system. They were sent to Poona and they were

photo-copied there and sent back to respective places. That agreement was there only for five years after the reorganisation and at the end of five years the Maharashtra Government felt that due to so many reasons and because they themselves have a lot of work on hand in addition to that the floods in Poona that occured in that year have destroyed the buildings, they could not continue that arrangement. Though we requested them to continue that arrangement for 3 years more till we establish that system in Mysore State, they could not continue and the trouble started from then. We have made proper arrangements for hand-copying by appointing sufficient number of clerks in all these places as has been done in other places in Mysore State. Due to the reasons as explained by Mr. V. S. Patil about the documents in Marathi modi, there was difficulty felt and we have appointed one clerk in Belgaum who knows modi script. Since his appointment, he has copied more than 150 documents and he is sending us regular accounts of how many documents he copies every month. On our part, I personally have no such difference between language and language. This is a busineess proposition almost. We do take money for registration and levy heavy fees and when we collect that, we must see that the document is registered. If we do not accept the *modi* and Marathi documents, it is all-right. But the old documents which are already there, if their copies are required for court purposes, certainly it is the duty and moral responsibility of the Government to provide such copies readily. Mr. Patil did not write to me. I do not remember his having written at any time except putting this question in the Assembly. I am prepared to provide for such appointment in that area to clear the old arrears and also to help the courts in future if they require any such references of old documents which are in Marathi or *modi* script till we get the photo-registering machine in our own State. We are making honest efforts to start a photo-registering machine here in Bangalore and we have set apart Rs. 4½ lakhs for that. We require Rs. 60,000 foreign exchange to import certain machinery for which we have written to the Government of India and I hope they will agree for that and as soon as we receive I think very soon we are going to establish a photo-registering machine in our own State. Then, there would not be much difficulty felt by Mr. Patil about this copying system in border areas. Whenever we appoint officers in Belgaum District, we appoint such officers who know Marathi also. There are a number of officers who know Marathi in Mysore Service. Recently we posted one person to Belgaum as Class I Registrar and immediately we withdrew him because he did not know Marathi. There was a man who knew both the languages and we posted him there. Till that area gets accustomed to Kannada we will try our best to see that we will appoint Marathi knowing officers. Beyond that I cannot give any assurance. We will try our best to see that all the work that is pending in those areas in the sub-registrar's office is cleared.

Sri K. P. REVANNASIDDAPPA.—What about corruption ?

Sri M. V. KRISHNAPPA.—There are so many other occasions when they can get a reply about corruption. There is the budget and on the Demands, we can certainly have many opportunities.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The House will stand adjourned to re-assemble tomorrow at 8-30 A.M.

The House adjourned at Twenty-five Minutes past Six of the Clock to meet again at Thirty Minutes past Eight of the Clock on Saturday, the 12th March 1966.

WD 6470—GPB—500—10-6-66